

I hope this correspondence serves to correct any misunderstandings concerning H.R. 518.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL,
Chairman.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to express the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. H.R. 518 would authorize states to restrict the receipt and disposal of municipal solid waste generated outside the United States.

The Administration is concerned that enactment of H.R. 518 would have the unintended result of increasing the disposal of hazardous waste in the United States and lead to an unnecessary trade dispute. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 230 U.S. companies, in over 32 states shipped hazardous waste to Canada in 2004 alone. If states use the authority in H.R. 518 to restrict foreign waste imports, this could provoke reciprocal actions by Canada or other trading partners against U.S. waste exports.

In addition, because H.R. 518 would authorize states to enact laws or regulations that exclusively restrict the disposal of foreign-generated waste or limit the amount of foreign waste shipped to the United States, it could raise concerns by our trading partners regarding U.S. compliance with international rules prohibiting trade discrimination. In fact, the Government of Canada has already questioned whether H.R. 518, as well as the state laws and regulations it could lead to, would be compatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements.

Moreover, H.R. 518 could result in a patchwork of individual and possibly conflicting state and federal laws and regulations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal waste that could make it more difficult to manage cross-border waste flows in an environmentally sound and economically efficient manner.

Finally, there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste. For example, the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste has been a successful mechanism for managing the flow of hazardous waste between our countries and illustrates how issues relating to this type of trade can be handled in a manner that does not raise concerns for our trading partners.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns. The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the President's program.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN MCCARTHY,
Assistant U.S. Trade
Representative for
Congressional Affairs.

JEFFREY T. BERGNER,
Assistant Secretary of
State for Legislative
Affairs.

PROFESSOR BRIAN ROTHSCILD
HONORED BY NOAA

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, one of the most important institutions

in the part of southeastern Massachusetts I have the privilege of representing, is the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The school has a justified reputation as a key agent for economic and educational development in the region, particularly along the State's south coast. One of the reasons for that reputation is Professor Brian Rothschild, who was until recently the Dean of UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology, SMAST, and currently serves as the school's Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science and Technology, as well as Co-Director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute, and Chairman of New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council.

I was delighted to learn that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, recently named Dr. Rothschild as one of the recipients of the agency's 2007 Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards. I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of this award, or who better exemplifies the effort to harness science in the furtherance of sustainable fisheries. I have found him to be not only an accurate, completely reliable source of information, but also someone who consistently offers creative solutions to fishery science and management problems. In other words, he not only possesses extraordinary scientific acumen—he also uses it in the service of larger, societal goals.

For him, sustainability means a fishery that supports both healthy stocks and healthy fishing communities. Knowing of his commitment to this concept, I was not surprised he was chosen to head New Bedford's Ocean and Fisheries Council. This position has given him a broader platform from which to promote sustainability, and his advice and contributions continue to be valuable, whether they relate to the recently enacted Magnuson Reauthorization bill, environmental factors that affect fish stock abundance, how to more accurately determine fish populations in multi-species fisheries, or other vital research areas.

Madam Speaker, in view of Professor Brian Rothschild's distinguished career in fishery science, and in recognition of his many contributions to that discipline in southeastern Massachusetts and all of New England, I applaud NOAA's decision to honor him with a Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award, and I ask that the recent New Bedford Standard-Times article noting this achievement be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard-Times,
April 21, 2007]

UMD'S ROTHSCILD WINS NOAA AWARD
(By Becky W. Evans)

NEW BEDFORD.—Fishery scientist Brian Rothschild has won the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's sustainable fisheries leadership award for his contributions to marine science and education.

Dr. Rothschild, former dean of the UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology, is one of seven recipients of the award, created in 2005 to recognize individuals, organizations and industries "whose contributions to science and management have served to promote best stewardship practices for the sustained use of the nation's living marine resources," according to NOAA's Office of Constituent Services.

"I feel very appreciative of people who recommended me for this honor," Dr. Rothschild said. "I have dedicated my whole career to service and it is nice to have some recognition."

Dr. Rothschild is the Montgomery Charter Professor of Marine Science and Technology

at SMAST. He also is chairman of New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council and is co-director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute.

According to NOAA, Dr. Rothschild is "one of the most cited fishery scientists in the world," having published more than 100 scientific papers and book chapters. His research interests include population dynamics, biological oceanography, fisheries management and natural resources policy.

Before arriving at SMAST in 1995, Dr. Rothschild held professorships at the University of Washington and the Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies at the University of Maryland. He spent a decade working for NOAA as a policy adviser and director of several offices. He has consulted on fishery issues for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization in India and Namibia and with the governments of Great Britain, Korea, Egypt, Peru, France and the Republic of Ireland.

The sustainable fisheries leadership awards will be presented during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on June 7.

A TRIBUTE TO STEVE DONAHUE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last week Steve Donahue, a longtime community leader and friend from my district, passed away. I want to take this opportunity to honor his life, mourn his passing and pray for his wife and four children.

Steve was beloved by his friends and neighbors. As the longtime Chief of the Pawcatuck Fire Department, he commanded an abounding level of respect among his colleagues and community, and touched the lives of hundreds.

Steve was a young man of only 48 years. Although I wish that he had more time to spend with us, Steve certainly made the most out of what time he had. It is difficult to find someone in Pawcatuck who doesn't have anything but flattering things to say about Steve.

Hundreds of people from the community came to pay their respects at Steve's funeral last Saturday. He was a man of great integrity who made friends everywhere he went.

Today I join my colleagues in Congress to celebrate Steve's life and to pray for his wife Mary Lynne, and their four children. Steve, we will miss you.

ARTICLE BY THOMAS M. RUYLE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, Thomas M. Ruyle wrote an excellent article, entitled "Army Stretched Beyond Limits", which appeared in the Sedalia Democrat on April 12, 2007. This article accurately describes the current state of our Army and the challenges it faces. I wish to share Mr. Ruyle's writing with the rest of the chamber:

[FROM THE SEDALIA DEMOCRAT, APR. 12, 2007]

ARMY STRETCHED BEYOND LIMITS

(BY THOMAS M. RUYLE)

The Army is broken.